

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter April 19th 1863.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

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Camp of the 23rd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry
Bowling Green, KY, April 19th 1863

Dear Wife,

I received your welcome letter yesterday and I hasten to answer it as soon as I can. I have been very busy all day today and yesterday, mostly writing, making out muster rolls and returns, and I am most through with that job and will have it easier tomorrow. We were mustered yesterday to show the strength of the regiment. It numbers 757 men and officers now present and absent 56 men absent from the regiment, some sick and some on detached service. We need about 250 men to fill our ranks, which I hope will soon be done. We were paid two months pay day before yesterday and I sent you \$24.00 by express yesterday by Captain *{Henry Heber}* Woodruff. You will call on Mrs. Woodruff for it and give her a receipt for it. We will soon have 2 months more due us, but I cannot tell when we will get it, probably next month. I got forty dollars and sent you 24 of it this time. I had to use some here for things that do not abound in the Quartermaster Department and as I have to pay the largest price for everything that I do buy it uses up money fast. I wish you would send me another small box of things if you can, not over four or five dollars worth, and what I want is vegetables such as pickles, onions, and some more good fine cut chewing tobacco. You need not send but a small box for it might get lost on the way.

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I like my place very well and I do not have to go out of camp on any duty except to go to General *{Henry M.}* Judah's headquarters occasionally. Company B has gone to Nashville *{TN}* again today, and will return tomorrow and so has Companies C & F. Captain Woodruff got a letter from Heber Woodruff last night and he said that Frank had got a furlough and was home by this time. I am glad he has got home for he has been away for almost two years. I hope he will enjoy his short furlough as he deserves. We will receive orders at this post by tomorrow for furloughs to be granted to five percent of the troops here. Captains of companies will recommend candidates for furloughs and as I do not belong to any company now my chance is slim for one at present. The adjutant says that he cannot spare me nor can he be spared from the regiment either at present. However, if it does not play out I will try and get one before the summer is over, so keep up good courage and spirits and you may soon see me. And if I have no bad luck there is a good chance for me to get a commission before another year. There is one vacancy now in the regiment and if they are filled as all other are have here my chance is good for the next one. Perhaps I am most too ambitious, but you know it is natural for some. You need not show much of this

letter for it might occasion some remarks unnecessary. I do not trouble myself about getting one for I might be disappointed. I hope that Frankey has got over her cold by this time. You must take good care of her and yourself and write soon to

Your Affectionate Husband, D. D. Keeler

{Side note:}

Please send me a few postage stamps occasionally and oblige. Deck

Camp of the 43rd Regt Mich Vol Infy
Walling Green N.Y April 19th 1863

Dear Wife

I received your welcome letter yesterday and I hasten to answer it as soon as I can I have been very busy all day to day and yesterday mostly writing making out Muster Rolls and returns and I am just through with that job and will have it easier to morrow

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